

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for constituting an integrated enterprise taxonomy for an intellectual capital management system serving a plurality of local enterprise communities,  
5 comprising the steps of:
  - extracting a plurality of local taxonomies from the plurality of local enterprise community models;
  - correlating from each of said plurality of local taxonomies a set of topics and a set of associations for  
10 generating a correlated topics and associations set relating to each of said plurality of local taxonomies;
  - deriving a plurality of synonym links for linking synonyms within said correlated topics and associations set;
  - integrating said plurality of synonym links and said  
15 correlated topics and associations set into an integrated enterprise taxonomy; and
  - exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system.
- 20 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of determining internal consistency within each of said plurality of local taxonomies.
3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
25 forming said correlated topics and associations set as a metamodel system; and  
constituting said set of topics and associations to be correlated as relationships within said metamodel system.
- 30 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said exporting step further comprises the step of exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management

system as a plurality of comma-separated-value files comprising said synonym links and said correlated topics and association set.

5        5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
         forming said correlated topics and associations set as a  
         hierarchical tree structure within a metamodel system; and  
         forming said set of topics as node objects within  
         said hierarchical tree structure; and  
10        forming said set of associations as relationships  
         between said node objects within said hierarchical tree  
         structure.

         6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of  
15        forming with said synonym links a canonical synonym link  
         structure associated with a canonical synonym from among said  
         synonyms, said canonical synonym link structure for  
         associating non-canonical synonyms with said canonical  
         synonym, said canonical synonym possessing a higher order  
20        than other ones of said synonyms.

         7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of  
         associating said integrated enterprise taxonomy with a  
         plurality of enterprise documents associated with said  
25        intellectual capital management system.

         8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of  
         forming said integrated enterprise taxonomy as a metamodel  
         system associated with said intellectual capital management  
30        system.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forming said integrated enterprise taxonomy as a database associated with said intellectual capital management system..

5       10.       A system for constituting an integrated enterprise taxonomy for an intellectual capital management system serving a plurality of local enterprise communities, comprising:

10               instructions for extracting a plurality of local taxonomies from the plurality of local enterprise communities;

              instructions for correlating from each of said plurality of local taxonomies a set of topics and a set of associations for generating a correlated topics and associations set  
15 relating to each of said plurality of local taxonomies;

              instructions for deriving a plurality of synonym links for linking synonyms within said correlated topics and associations set;

20               instructions for integrating said plurality of synonym links and said correlated topics and associations set into an integrated enterprise taxonomy; and

              instructions for exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system.

25       11.       The system of Claim 10, further comprising instructions for determining internal consistency within each of said plurality of local taxonomies.

              12.       The system of Claim 10, further comprising:

30               instructions for forming said correlated topics and associations set as a metamodel system; and

              instructions for constituting said set of topics and

associations to be correlated as relationships within said metamodel system.

13. The system of Claim 10, wherein said exporting  
5 instruction further comprise instructions for exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system as a plurality of comma-separated-value files comprising said synonym links and said correlated topics and association set.

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14. The system of Claim 10, further comprising:  
instructions for forming said correlated topics and associations set as a hierarchical tree structure within a metamodel system; and  
15 instructions for forming said set of topics as node objects within said hierarchical tree structure; and  
instructions for forming said set of associations as relationships between said node objects within said hierarchical tree structure.

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15. The system of Claim 10, further comprising  
instructions for forming with said synonym links a canonical synonym link structure associated with a canonical synonym  
from among said synonyms, said canonical synonym link  
25 structure for associating non-canonical synonyms with said canonical synonym, said canonical synonym possessing a higher order than other ones of said synonyms.

16. The system of Claim 10, further comprising  
30 instructions for associating said integrated enterprise taxonomy with a plurality of enterprise documents associated

with said intellectual capital management system.

17. The system of Claim 10, further comprising  
instructions for forming said integrated enterprise taxonomy  
5 as a metamodel system associated with said intellectual  
capital management system.

18. The system of Claim 10, further comprising  
instructions for forming said integrated enterprise taxonomy  
10 as a database associated with said intellectual capital  
management system.

19. A storage medium for constituting an integrated  
enterprise taxonomy for an intellectual capital management  
15 system serving a plurality of local enterprise communities,  
said storage medium comprising:

instructions for extracting a plurality of local  
taxonomies from the plurality of local enterprise  
communities;  
20 instructions for correlating from each of said plurality  
of local taxonomies a set of topics and a set of associations  
for generating a correlated topics and associations set  
relating to each of said plurality of local taxonomies;  
instructions for deriving a plurality of synonym links  
25 for linking synonyms within said correlated topics and  
associations set;  
instructions for integrating said plurality of synonym  
links and said correlated topics and associations set into an  
integrated enterprise taxonomy; and  
30 instructions for exporting said integrated enterprise  
taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system.

20. The storage medium of Claim 19, further comprising:  
instructions for forming said correlated topics and  
associations set as a hierarchical tree structure within a  
metamodel system; and
- 5 instructions for forming said set of topics as node  
objects within said hierarchical tree structure; and  
instructions for forming said set of associations  
as relationships between said node objects within said  
hierarchical tree structure.